

The following is claimed:

1. A method of customizing a print job, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving an input of an application file;
 - selecting a preferential document-processing feature from a group of document-processing features for a print job; and
 - applying a plug-in module, for supporting the preferential document-processing feature, to the application file.
2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of printing at least a portion of the application file using the plug-in module for the print job.
3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the application file comprises a page description language file selected from the group consisting of a portable document format (PDF), printer control language (PCL), and a PostScript file.
4. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - determining whether or not the application file represents a page description language file;
 - converting the received application file into a page description language file if the received application file does not represent a page description file.
5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the selecting step comprises:
 - accessing a plug-in module database to retrieve the selected plug-in module.
6. A method of customizing a print job, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving an input of an application file;

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converting the application file into a page description language file if the application file is in a format distinct from the page description language file format;

associating a preferential document-processing feature with the page description language file;

selecting a plug-in module associated with the preferential document-processing feature for a print job; and

printing the page description language file using the selected plug-in module for a print job.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the page description language file is in a form selected from the group consisting of a portable document format (PDF), printer control language (PCL), and a PostScript file.

8. The method according to claim 6 wherein the selecting step comprises:
accessing a plug-in database to retrieve the selected plug-in module.

9. A system for customizing a print job, the system comprising:
a detector for receiving an input of an application file and determining whether the application file represents a page description language file;

a user interface for selecting a preferential document-processing feature from a group of document-processing features; and

a printer for applying a plug-in module, associated with the preferential document-processing features, to the application file.

10. The system according to claim 9 where the printer includes a bitmap printing module for printing the application file.

11. The system according to claim 9 wherein the application file comprises a page description language file selected from the group consisting of a portable document format (PDF), printer control language (PCL), and a PostScript file.

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a converter for converting the application file to a page description language file if the application file does not represent a page description language file.

18. The system according to claim 14 wherein the plug-in selector is adapted to access a plug-in database to retrieve the selected plug-in module.

19. The system according to claim 14 wherein the data augments cooperates with a downloader to express the preferential document-processing feature as downloader-embedded customization data in the application file.

20. The system according to claim 14 wherein the data augments cooperates with a printer driver to express the preferential document-processing feature as printer-driver-embedded customization data in the application file.

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